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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

Telephone

797

DATE: July 1, 1954
1st conversation

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Guatemalan Situation

PARTICIPANTS: American Ambassador Michael J. McDermott - San Salvador, El Salvador.
Assistant Secretary Henry F. Holland

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Amb. McDermott said that three definite proposals were advanced during night-long conversations. Three possible plans were discussed, two of which were rejected by Castillo Armas. Existing talks and cease-fire have been extended to 9 a.m., July 2. Castillo Armas and Monzon are returning to their respective headquarters. Were bitterly disappointed at failure to bring about agreement. No further conversations will take place here. Feel the next move, if any, is in our hands to seek a solution by some means. No further conversations will take place after nine o'clock tomorrow morning.

Mr. Holland asked if the plane had left there to pick up Amb. Peurifoy at seven o'clock. Amb. McDermott said Monzon left in other other plane at eight and will be in Guatemala in 40 minutes. Mr. Holland asked if there was any chance of holding Castillo Armas and Monzon there to see if Amb. Peurifoy could contribute anything. Amb. McDermott said he would have to tell them something definite in order to hold them. Amb. McDermott said we were not mediating. Amb. McDermott didn't think they could do it in five minutes. Mr. Holland asked when the decision was reached and Amb. McDermott said at four o'clock in the morning. Amb. McDermott said he sent a long telegram the first time the circuits were open.

Mr. Holland said he would, if possible, urge that if it is practical to do so that the two planes remain at the airport and not take off until Amb. Peurifoy could get there. Mr. Holland said he understood that Amb. Peurifoy was going over to Salvador; he had asked him to take off at eight o'clock in the morning from Guatemala. He should be in Salvador at 8:40. Mr. Holland asked Amb. McDermott to see if President Osorio would see if the two men would postpone their take-off for an hour or an hour and a half to see if Amb. Peurifoy could contribute something. Amb. McDermott said he would do it right away.

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